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Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Anneli **Lepp** (Estonia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2018, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-third session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 6th and 8th meetings, on 10 and 11 October 2018. Action on the item was taken at the 23rd and 26th meetings, on 8 and 30 November. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records.[1] Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 6th meetings, on 8, 9 and 10 October.[2]

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/73/307);

[1] A/C.2/73/SR.6, A/C.2/73/SR.8, A/C.2/73/SR.23 and A/C.2/73/SR.26.
[2] See A/C.2/73/SR.2, A/C.2/73/SR.3, A/C.2/73/SR.4, A/C.2/73/SR.5 and A/C.2/73/SR.6.

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(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (A/73/83-E/2018/62);

(c) Letter dated 4 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the forty-second annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Group of 77, held in New York on 27 September 2018 (A/73/417);

(d) Letter dated 22 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Malawi to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the annual ministerial meeting of the least developed countries, held in New York on 26 September 2018 (A/73/455);

(e) Findings and recommendations of the Open-ended Working Group established by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/226.[3]

4. At the 6th meeting, on 10 October, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat made an introductory statement.

5. At the 23rd meeting, on 8 November, the representative of the United States of America made a statement with regard to the draft resolutions before the Committee.[4]

6. At the 27th meeting, on 3 December, the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela made a statement with regard to the draft resolutions adopted by the Committee.[5]

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/73/L.4 and A/C.2/73/L.4/Rev.1 and amendments contained in A/C.2/73/L.61

7. At the 23rd meeting, on 8 November, the representative of Egypt, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)" (A/C.2/73/L.4).

8. At its 26th meeting, on 30 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)" (A/C.2/73/L.4/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of A/C.2/73/L.4.

9. At the same meeting, the representative of Egypt, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, made a statement and orally corrected draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.4/Rev.1.

10. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Austria, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union, made a statement and introduced the proposed amendments contained in A/C.2/73/L.61.

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[3] Available at https://www.un.org/pga/72/wp-content/uploads/sites/51/2018/06/un-habitat.pdf.

[4] See A/C.2/73/SR.23.

[5] See A/C.2/73/SR.27.

11. Also at its 26th meeting, the Committee was informed that the proposed amendments had no programme budget implications.

12. At the same meeting, the Committee rejected the proposed amendments contained in document A/C.2/73/L.61 by a recorded vote of 111 to 45, with 12 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Abstaining:

Iceland, Liechtenstein, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Turkey.

13. Also at the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.4/Rev.1 had no programme budget implications.

14. Also at its 26th meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution as orally corrected (see para. 15).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

15. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions on the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), including its resolutions 32/162 of 19 December 1977, 56/206 of 21 December 2001, 65/165 of 20 December 2010, 66/207 of 22 December 2011, 67/216 of 21 December 2012, 68/239 of 27 December 2013, 69/226 of 19 December 2014, 70/210 of 22 December 2015, 71/235 of 21 December 2016 and 72/226 of 20 December 2017,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement,[1] and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[2] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Recalling its resolution 71/256 of 23 December 2016, entitled "New Urban Agenda", in which it endorsed the New Urban Agenda, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016, as contained in the annex to the above-mentioned resolution,

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[1] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

Reaffirming its resolution 71/243 of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and its general guidelines and principles, as well as its resolution 72/279 of 31 May 2018 on repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Reaffirming also the commitment to urban and rural development that is people-centred, protects the planet and is age- and gender-responsive and to the realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, facilitating living together, ending all forms of discrimination and violence and empowering all individuals and communities while enabling their full and meaningful participation, and reaffirming further the commitment to promoting culture and respect for diversity and equality as key elements in the humanization of our cities and human settlements,

Reaffirming further the commitment to promoting the systematic use of multi-stakeholder partnerships in urban development processes, as appropriate, establishing clear and transparent policies, financial and administrative frameworks and procedures, as well as planning guidelines for multi-stakeholder partnerships,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

Recommitting to ensuring that no country or person is left behind and to focusing our effort where the challenges are greatest, including by ensuring the inclusion and participation of those who are furthest behind,

Noting that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030[3] can contribute to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda,

Reaffirming the role and expertise of UN-Habitat, given its role within the United Nations system as a focal point on sustainable urbanization and human settlements, including in the implementation, follow-up to and review of the New Urban Agenda, in collaboration with other United Nations system entities,

Reiterating that the implementation of the New Urban Agenda contributes to the implementation and localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in an integrated and coordinated manner at the global, regional, national, subnational and local levels, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders,

Reiterating also its recognition that, over the years, the responsibilities of UN-Habitat have changed considerably in their scope and complexity,

Recalling UN-Habitat Governing Council resolution 26/8 of 12 May 2017, entitled "Promoting the effective implementation, follow-up to and review of the New Urban Agenda",[4]

Recognizing the role of national, subnational and local governments, as appropriate, and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, throughout the process, including policymaking, planning, design, implementation, operation and maintenance, and monitoring, as well as the financing and timely delivery of services,

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[3] Resolution 69/283, annex II.

[4] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 8* (A/72/8), annex.

Aware that the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda requires enabling policy frameworks at, as appropriate, the global, regional, national, subnational and local levels, effective means of implementation, including finance, capacity-building, technology development and transfer, on voluntary and mutually agreed terms, and mutually beneficial partnerships,

Reaffirming the importance of accountability, transparency and improved results-based management and further harmonized results-based reporting for increasing the quantity and quality of funding for operational activities, while recognizing the need to ensure an adequate quantity and quality of funding for the operational and normative activities of UN-Habitat, including its core resources, and the need to make funding more predictable, efficient and effective,

Recognizing the need to strengthen Member States' ownership, leadership and oversight of UN-Habitat,

Affirming that the focus of the work of UN-Habitat, in line with the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, should remain within the framework of sustainable development, with the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions as its overarching objective, consistent with the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat),[5]

Reaffirming the role of the World Urban Forum as an advocacy platform for all stakeholders in the fields of human settlements and sustainable urbanization, based on its non-legislative nature, and expressing its appreciation to the Government of Malaysia and to the city of Kuala Lumpur for hosting the ninth session of the Forum from 7 to 13 February 2018, which was the first session to have a thematic focus on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda adopted at Habitat III,

Governance of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

1. *Welcomes* the work of the open-ended Working Group established by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/226, as well as its report, and endorses its findings and recommendations on changing the governance structure of UN-Habitat;

2. *Decides* to dissolve the UN-Habitat Governing Council as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and to replace it with the UN-Habitat Assembly, in line with the findings and recommendations of the open-ended Working Group, also decides that the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly will be held in May 2019, building upon the preparations already carried out for the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council, and further decides that this shall take effect upon commencement of the first session;

3. *Also decides* that, in 2019, the Executive Board, after the election of its members by the UN-Habitat Assembly, shall meet for its first session in Nairobi for a duration of three days;

4. *Further decides* that the Committee of Permanent Representatives of UN-Habitat shall prepare draft rules of procedure for the UN-Habitat Assembly, to be

[5] A/73/307.

completed no later than April or May 2019, with a view to their adoption at the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly;

Ensuring adequate funding and improving information to monitor funding trends

5. *Decides* that the additional requirements, including those to service the new intergovernmental governance processes of UN-Habitat, should be met by existing structures and by streamlining operations, and encourages Member States to make voluntary contributions for the sustainability and predictability of financial resources;

6. *Invites* Member States, international and bilateral donors and financial institutions to contribute to UN-Habitat through increased voluntary financial contributions, especially non-earmarked contributions, to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, including the urban basic services trust fund and other technical cooperation trust funds, invites Governments and other stakeholders to provide predictable multi-year funding and increased non-earmarked contributions to support the implementation of its mandate, and requests the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to ensure that reporting on funding is transparent and easily accessible to Member States, including through the creation of an online registry that contains relevant financial information;

7. *Invites* all Member States making financial contributions earmarked for the operational activities of UN-Habitat to ensure that such resources are fully aligned with the strategic plan of UN-Habitat and are in accordance with the priorities of Member States benefiting from those contributions;

Implementation of the New Urban Agenda to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

8. *Reaffirms* that, by readdressing the way cities and human settlements are planned, designed, financed, developed, governed and managed, the New Urban Agenda will help to end poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions, reduce inequalities, promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in order to fully harness their vital contribution to sustainable development, improve human health and well-being, foster resilience and protect the environment;

9. *Acknowledges* the central role that cities and human settlements can play in sustainable development, and urges UN-Habitat to further support increased participation of governments at all levels and regional organizations in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals relevant to cities and other human settlements, in particular by providing technical assistance aimed at developing the capacity of all levels of governments, especially in developing countries, to plan and implement sustainable urbanization and human settlements programmes and projects;

10. *Recognizes* the importance of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda at the national, subnational, local, regional and global levels, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national legislation and practices, as well as policies and priorities;

11. *Urges* UN-Habitat to continue to develop innovative methods, approaches and guidelines for data collection, analysis, monitoring and implementation, with the objective of supporting Member States, especially developing countries, when needed, in dealing with emerging urban challenges and opportunities;

12. *Recognizes* the need to ensure that UN-Habitat has appropriate capacity to generate, manage and disseminate its evidence-based urbanization knowledge, based on its normative and operational work, building on existing international instruments, assessments and information networks to raise public awareness of critical, as well as emerging, urbanization issues;

13. *Urges* UN-Habitat to ensure that its normative and operational activities are balanced, that its normative work guides and is integrated into its operational work and that its experiences in the operational field feed into its normative work;

14. *Encourages* UN-Habitat to continue to work closely with other entities of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, as key partners in reaching out to Member States in the regions for the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban and human settlements dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

15. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

16. *Encourages* UN-Habitat to continue its collaboration with international development banks and the private sector to ensure coherence of policy support and the alignment of large-scale urban investments with the principles of the New Urban Agenda and to facilitate increased investment in sustainable urbanization, including through, but not limited to, the Multi-Partner Implementation Facility for Sustainable Urban Development, the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the Adaptation Fund and the Climate Investment Funds;

Review and implementation

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to establish a special voluntary trust fund for the purpose of assisting developing countries in attending UN-Habitat Assembly and Executive Board sessions, and invites Member States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to make financial contributions to the voluntary trust fund;

18. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a progress report to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution, to be entitled "Follow-up to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)";

19. *Decides*, for its next consideration of this topic, to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fifth session an item entitled "Follow-up to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)".